Bulldogs Pounce On Blue Devils For 9-7 Win

Staff Photo — Ken Sharp

Shirttail Tackle Halts Bulldog Quarterback Lennie Moore

BY RAY WILLETT
T-E Sports Editor

It wasn't exactly as rough as the Allies invasion of the Normandy beaches in World War II. But the action on the hard of Veterans Memorial Stadium Friday night was akin to the hand to hand fighting in the Pacific jungles during that global conflict as Thomasville's Bulldogs fought off Tift County's vaunted Blue Devils, and sent the state's No. 4 rated team crashing down to its first defeat of the season.

The final score was officially 9-7, but in the hearts of Bulldogs fans it will always be 9-0.

With time rapidly running out and trailing, 9-0, the frantic Blue Devils were desperately trying to get on the scoreboard and had driven to the Bulldogs' 3-yard line with only seconds left.

The Bulldog faithful were certain the final tick of the clock had arrived before the Tift center snapped the ball on the final play of the game, but the play was allowed and the Blue Devils scored — then kicked a meaningless extra point while the fans waited to erupt in a chorus of victory.

The big win for the Bulldogs was a personal triumph for quarterback Lennie Moore, returning for action for the first time since the Cairo game on Aug. 30, after sitting out a 30-day suspension for disciplinary reasons.

While Moore's statistics may not have been terribly impressive — although he did race through the middle of the Tift defenses with the touchdown that proved to be the winning margin — he kept the Blue Devils jittery and on edge the entire night, knowing he was a potential touchdown threat each time he touched the ball.

Showing no signs of rust from the month of inactivity, Moore was cool and calm from the quarterback pocket, connecting on six of 14 passes for 47 yards while rushing for 52 yards on 17 tries.

But more importantly, Moore "ate the ball" when trapped on several passing attempts rather than throw the ball up for grabs and a possible interception — making the rushing yardage figure for the Thomasville quarterback as inaccurate as the leading economic indicators used to forecast the state of the nation's business pulse.

BUT FOR TWO TEAMS which had lived and died with the ground game for years, the Bulldogs and Blue Devils spent the first half reversing the process while attempting to first "establish a passing game."

The 'Dogs put the ball in the air a total of nine times during the first two quarters — possibly a record for a Jim Hughes coached team — but managed only four completions for just 13 yards.

The Blue Devils did a little better, throwing 13 times and completing five for 72 yards, with both teams suffering one interception each.

The Thomasville running game was much more effective than that of the Devils — as it was throughout the contest — as the 'Dogs showed a net gain of 54 yards on 38 carries. Tift, apparently throwing the ball out of a complete respect for the Bulldogs' kamikaze ground defense, could gain only a paltry three (3) yards in the first half after 13 thrusts at the red-shirted defenders.

Both the 'Dogs and the Devils were aided by a fumble recovery in the opening half. A Tift defender fell on a Bobby Harris bobble at their own 25-yard line in the first quarter, but the Thomasville defense came to the rescue and threw back the Devils before forcing a punt.

Tift was quick to return the favor in the second period. Apparently headed for the Thomasville goal, Bulldog defensive tackle Walter Pittman put a stop to such nonsense by emerging from the bottom of a mountainous pileup with a loose ball firmly in his grasp.

AFTER THE FIRST HALF ended in a scoring deadlock, the Bulldogs crossed up the Tift defenders and came out running in the second half, while mixing the passes in at the most opportune of times.

Starting from their own 12 after the kickoff, the 'Dogs marched to the Tift nine before the drive stalled. A Moore toss to split end Curtis Thomas for 18-yards set the drive in motion, but a 23-yard jaunt by Harris and another completion by Moore — this time for 15-yards to Hawker Doug Angel — were also important plays in the Bulldogs' first serious drive toward paydirt.

Faced with a fourth-and-four decision at the Tift nine, the Bulldogs called on the reliable toe of place kicker Lloyd Marshall, and he responded by boosting a 27-yard field goal to give the 'Dogs a 3-0 lead with 7:10 left in the third period.

Thomasville fans began singing "turn out the lights, the party's over" when the 'Dogs scored the only touchdown of the night midway of the final period.

Staying on the ground exclusively after Marshall came down with a Tift aerial at midfield to stall a Blue Devil march, the 'Dogs ground out short yardage in short chunks until Moore dropped back a couple of steps to take the pass, then darted up the middle on a perfectly executed quarterback draw, giving the big to the final pair of Tift defenders as he sped the final 13-yards for the clinching touchdown.

Marshall was wide left on the PAT try, but with only 6:38 left to play, Bulldog fans were unruffled at the miss since they were sure the 'Dogs would continue to slam the defensive door in the faces of the Blue Devils.

And the Bulldogs defenders did just that as at least in Pittsburgh time, at least as far as the time following the red-shirted team's score, concerned.

Harris led the Bulldogs' ground game with 61 yards in 13 attempts, while 2-sophomore fullback Marvin Pittman rushed for 34 yards in just six tries as Angelo kicked on to a pair of passes for 34 yards to pace the Bulldog receivers.

The Bulldogs are now 3-0 for the year — 0-1 in subregion — while the Devils stand at 4-1 for the season.

Next Friday, the Bulldogs are to entertain Central's Yellow Jackets in the annual crosstown brawl between the close neighbors.

* * *

Tift Co. . . . . 0 0 0 7 — 7
Thomasville . . . 0 0 0 9 — 9
Tifts — FG Marshall 27
Tifts — Moore 11 run (Kick failed)
TM — Smith 3 pass from Moore (Kick failed)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING — TM — Harris 16-61, Pittman 6-34, Thomas 1-4. Moore 17-52. Tift — Hicks 12-42, Moore 17-42, Pittman 7-24, Thomas 6-14, Bell 1-1.
PASSING — TM — Moore 6-14-1-47. Tift — Moore 1-3-0-13.
RECEIVING — TM — Angel 2-34, Moore 2-4, Cunningham 2-27, Collier 1-12, Turner 1-4, Vickers 1-4, Smith 1-3. Tift — Pittman — 2-13, Thomas 1-6, Berry 1-4, Crosby 1-3.

—YARDSTICK—

	Tift	Tv-M
First Downs	11	13
Yards Rushing	27	171
Yards Passing	102	47
Total Offense	129	218
Passes	14-38	6-14
Passes Int. By	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Punts	5-32.2	4-30.2
Penalties	1-5	4-25

Moore, Coach Hughes Talk It Over

Syrupmakers Stun Cook, 34-6

ADEL — Capitalizing on a rash of Cook County turnovers, the Cairo Syrupmakers rolled up 305 yards of total offense to overpower the Cook County Hornets, 34-6, and raise their record to 6-1 for the season.

Cairo presented a fairly balanced offensive attack, gaining 180 yards rushing and 125 yards passing. But the bulk of their advantage was drawn from a riveting defensive performance which enabled the Syrupmakers to recover five fumbles and snag four interceptions.

"The defense was like a rubber band," said Cairo coach Jack Johnson. "They stretched but never broke. It was some of the hardest hitting I'd seen in a long time."

The Syrupmakers presented an aerial attack which was somewhat less dominating than those of recent weeks, completing eight of 20 pass attempts, but resulting in two passing touchdowns.

Cairo got the ball rolling midway through the first quarter on their second possession when quarterback Duke Donaldson broke loose to score on a 78-yard run. Then in the second quarter the Syrupmakers moved the ball 97 yards on 13 plays to score on a three-yard run by Ernest Harris. Vic Lee connected on both extra point attempts to put Cairo ahead, 14-0, heading into the lockerroom at halftime.

"Our kids were kind of tense going into the game," said Johnson. "But they executed well and jumped to a 14-point lead at the half. Then in the third quarter they showed me one of the most explosive offenses I've ever seen in high school football."

The Syrupmakers surged into touchdowns within a period of less than three minutes. Midway through the third quarter Cairo manuevered the ball 60 yards in six plays to score on another three-yard dash by Harris.

About a minute and a half later the Syrupmakers recovered a Cook County fumble to set up a 22-yard touchdown pass from Donaldson to Ricky Lewis. And 30 seconds later, Joey Hester pulled down an errant Hornet pass to set up the Syrupmakers final score on a 30-yard pass from Donaldson to Dennis McGriff to put Cairo ahead, 34-0.

Cook County made one desperate attempt to rebound late in the final quarter as the Hornets scored on a 25-yard run by Darryl Wooten. But their fate had been sealed much earlier.

On Friday Cairo will be looking for their seventh victory of the season when they travel to Leesburg to challenge Lee County.

* * *

Cairo . . . . . 7 7 20 0 — 34
Cook Co. . . . . 0 0 0 6 — 6
Cairo — Donaldson 78 run (Lee kick)
Cairo — Harris 3 run (Lee kick)
Cairo — Harris 3 run (Kick failed)
Cairo — Lewis 22 pass from Donaldson (Lee kick)
Cairo — McGriff 30 pass from Donaldson (Lee kick)
Cook — Wooten 25 run (Kick failed)

—YARDSTICK—

	Cairo	Cook
First Downs	9	13
Yards Rushing	180	103
Yards Passing	125	180
Total Offense	305	283
Passes	8-20	10-24
Passes Int. By	4	2
Fumbles Lost	0	5
Punts	3-46	4-30
Penalties	8-60	4-50

Pelham Ground Game Grinds Cook, 14-6

PELHAM — Relying entirely on a ball-control offense and solid defense, the Pelham Hornets ground out a 14-6 victory over the Calhoun County Cougars in their first region 1-A matchup of the year.

The Hornets raised their record to 4-3 by defeating the third-ranked Cougars without gaining a single passing yard. Though outdistanced in total offensive yards, 171 to 133, Pelham clung to the slimmest of halftime leads to edge Calhoun County in the final quarter.

The Cougars got on the board first late in the first period on the first play from scrimmage when Archie Robinson broke loose for a 64 yard touchdown gun. It was their only score of the evening.

Midway through the second quarter Pelham evened the score when Alex Hines, the leading ground gainer of the game with 140 yards on 28 carries, capitalized on a 23-yard run to set up a 12-yard dash into the end zone on the following play. Jeff Burgess connected on the extra point attempt to put the Hornets ahead by one at the half.

Then early in the fourth quarter Pelham wrapped it up for good when William McCormick recovered a Calhoun County fumble on the Cougars' six-yard line to set up a one-yard quarterback sneak by Burgess, who then kicked the extra point.

On Friday, the Hornets will travel to Rochelle to challenge Wilcox County in their second regional contest this season.

Calhoun . . . . . 6 0 0 0 — 6
Pelham . . . . . 0 7 0 7 — 14
Calh. — Robinson 64 run (Kick failed)
Pel. — Hines 12 run (Burgess kick)
Pel. — Burgess 1 run (Burgess kick)

—YARDSTICK—

	Calh'	Pelh
First Downs	4	6
Yards Rushing	156	133
Yards Passing	15	0
Total Offense	171	133
Passes	1-4	0-10
Passes Int. By	0	1
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Punts	3-36	8-42
Penalties	0	2-20

Warriors Overpower Pineland, 30-7

MOULTRIE — Brookwood's Warriors ran their record to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in SEAIS Region 1-AA with a 30-7 victory over Pineland's Eagles here Friday night.

After a scoreless first half the Warrior's offense erupted scoring 21 points in the third quarter and nine in the fourth while limiting the Eagles to just seven.

The scoring began with 8:23 left in the third quarter on a three yard run by halfback Mike Slaughter and a successful PAT by Duke Bryan.

The touchdown drive was 26 yards after the Eagles had received the second half kickoff and fumbled at their own 26 after two plays and the Warriors recovered. The scoring drive took six plays.

On Brookwood's next series of downs quarterback Tom Reynolds lateraled back to Jay Harvard who passed to Ross Singletary for a 56 yard gain to set up the next play which was a 48 yard touchdown scamper by Slaughter. Harvard made a key block on the run to spring Slaughter. Bryan's kick for the extra point was good making the score 14-0 with 4:50 left in the third period.

Pineland came out throwing after the kickoff, completing two before Steve Newman intercepted the third at his own 40 and returned it 60 yards for the third touchdown within six minutes. Bryan split the uprights again making the score 21-0 with 3:24 left in the quarter.

After a short kickoff the Eagles returned the ball to their own 45, where Paul Bennett took the ball on first down and raced all the way to the end zone for 55 yards and the Eagles only touchdown. Bennett also kicked the extra point cutting the Warrior lead to 21-7 with 1:08 in the quarter.

With eight minutes left in the game Bryan was called on to try a 49 yard field goal which he successfully made.

The Eagles couldn't move the ball and the Warriors regained possession with a little over five minutes left in the contest. They drove the ball down the field and scored with five seconds left on a 19 yard run by Jay Elrod. Ross Singletary went in and attempted the extra-point but the kick was no good.

* * *

Brookwood . . . 0 0 21 9 — 30
Pineland . . . . . 0 0 7 0 — 7
Period — Slaughter 1 run (Bryan kick)
Period — Slaughter 48 run (Bryan kick)
Period — Newman 60 pass in terception (Bryan kick)
Period — Bennett 55 run (Bennett kick)
Period — FG Bryan 49
Period — Elrod 19 run (Kick failed)

—YARDSTICK—

	Brook	Pine
First Downs	10	9
Yards Rushing	222	142
Yards Passing	49	44
Total Offense	271	186
Passes	2-4	2-13
Passes Int. By	2	0
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Punts	8-38	2-34
Penalties	12-130	4-30

Jackets Sweep By Monroe For 16-6 Victory

By RON WILKERSON

Central High School's offense finally jelled in the second half Friday night as the Yellow Jackets defense held the Monroe Tornadoes to 101 total yards in a 16-6 win at the Yellow Jacket's home field.

The non-subregion contest started with what looked like it was going to be a warm night and very little offense, but as the temperature at the stadium dropped slightly and the night breeze picked up, the Yellow Jacket's seemed to perk up offensively and began using the option play the way it was intended to be used.

The highlights of the first quarter were three turnovers, two by Monroe and one by the Jackets. On the opening kickoff Anthony Bean kicked the ball 30 yards high and only 36 yards long where the Yellow Jackets were able to recover the apparent on-side kick at the Tornadoes' 34 yard line.

On the ensuing play Chris West pitched out to Mark Hunter who couldn't get a handle on the pitch and the Tornadoes had possession at mid-field.

Central put together the only serious drive of the first period with a 34 yard drive that ended at the Tornadoes' 34 yard line with 10:50 left in the second period. Again the two defenses held each other until the Yellow Jackets took possession with 5:13 left in the half.

The Yellow Jackets started the drive at their own 47 and ended with a 20 yard field-goal by Anthony Bean with 2:40 left in the half. West passed for 38 yards on the drive to set up the field goal while moving the ball down to the Tornadoes' 14 yard line.

After the kickoff the Tornadoes took over at their own 36 yard line and two plays later quarterback Curtis Marshall threw an errant pass that went right into the arms of Central's Ray King who returned the ball to the Tornadoes' 38.

On first down West hit Mark Henley with a seven yard pass, setting up second down and three at the 13. West then threw an incompletion intended for Robert Farmer, but Farmer couldn't get a handle on the low pass.

With third and three at the 13 West hit Kelvin Bean who caught the ball on the dead run and streaked into the end-zone for the touchdown with 1:11 left in the half.

Anthony Bean's PAT was no good making the score 9-0 at the half.

Central began play in the second half at their own 20 yard line after the Tornadoes Jeff Swift booted the kickoff through the end zone. They moved the ball out to their own 43 before having to punt.

After the punt the Tornadoes began play at their own 16 yard line and moved out to the 37 where they had to kick the ball away.

This time the Yellow Jackets started at their own 32. After two successful running plays for 11 yards the Jackets went to the air. The first pass was complete for seven yards to Kelvin Bean. The second was intercepted by Monroe's Maverick McKinney at the Tornadoes' 45 yard line where he saw nothing but green grass ahead of him as he returned the ball 55 yards for the touchdown.

The Tornadoes decided to try for two on the PAT, but the attempted pass from Marshall to Roderick Holmes was deflected making the score 9-6 in favor of the Yellow Jackets with 4:28 left in the third quarter.

Swift's kickoff went through the end-zone again forcing the Jackets to begin play at the 20. It was about this time that the breeze began to blow and the offense began to perk up for the Yellow Jackets.

Using ball control the Jackets moved right down the field to the Tornadoes' 13 yard line. Facing a fourth down and four at the 13, West threw out towards his right sideline where Mare Moultrie intercepted the toss and had he not slipped after catching the ball, he could have returned the interception all the way for the score. Fortunately, for the Yellow Jackets, he slipped.

Monroe held onto the ball until 6:38 left in the game. After the Tornadoes punted 41 yards the Yellow Jackets started play at their own 25 yard line.

The Jackets drove out to the 40 where they faced a fourth and four. But as the ball left the foot of Henley, penalty flags flew all over the field and the Yellow Jackets retained possession because of a five yard penalty against Monroe for having 11 men on the field.

Breathing a sigh of relief, the Jackets marched goalward using a mixture of option runs and passing to get to the seven yard line and face another fourth down situation. With 30 seconds left West popped a quick pass over the middle to Bean in the end zone for the touchdown.

Anthony Bean's PAT was good giving the Jackets their final margin of victory at 16-6.

Yellow Jacket head coach Larry Green commented at mid-field following the game, "I was well-pleased with our offensive effort tonight, because we were able to control the ball and do some things we haven't been able to do up until this game. I think West played a good game for us and I think our defense once again kept us in the game with their aggressive play."

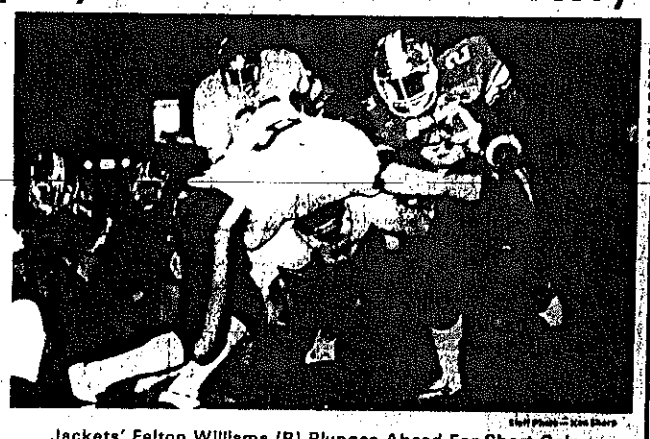
West completed 18 of 36 passes for 170 yards through the air with Kelvin Bean being on the receiving end for eight of them and 88 yards, and two touchdowns.

The Yellow Jacket defense held the Tornadoes to only 13 yards on the ground for the game.

Central takes a 5-3 record into Friday's game against Thomasville to be played at Veteran's Memorial Stadium.

Monroe . . . . . 0 0 0 6 — 6
Central . . . . . 0 9 7 0 — 16
Cent. — FG Marshall 27
Cent. — K. Bean 13 pass from West (Bean kick)
Mon. — McKinney 55 pass intercepted (Kick failed)
Cent. — K. Bean 7 pass from West (Bean kick)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING — Mon. — Lockett 13-20, Smith 1-6, Bennett 1-4, Brown 1-3. Cent. — Moultrie 10-21, Green 8-21.
PASSING — Mon. — Marshall 3-8-1-21, Smith 3-12-0-40. Cent. — West 18-36-2-170.
RECEIVING — Mon. — Holmes 2-20, Lockett 1-10, Brown 1-11. Cent. — K. Bean 8-88, Moultrie 3-41, Farmer 3-13, Tyler 1-13.



Staff Photo — Ken Sharp

Jackets' Felton Williams (R) Plunges Ahead For Short Gain

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